

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir  
Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, \*Michael J. Coppotelli, Carol R. Edmead, Gino A. Marmorato, \*Jodi Morales, Simon Shamoun, \*Michele A. Sileo

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director  
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager  
Eric Butkiewicz, Associate Counsel  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Sherwin Suss, Agency Chief Contracting Officer

GUEST: Marcia Reese

\*Commissioners Coppotelli, Morales and Sileo appeared remotely, but not at a publicly accessible location, and therefore did not cast any votes.

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Mr. Ryan opened the meeting, and provided the following updates:

This past Saturday we conducted the first of two Local Registration days that are required during Presidential Election years. The Board opened 73 sites across the five boroughs, and we have received a total of 121 registration forms:

35 Manhattan

60 Bronx

26 Brooklyn  
0 Queens  
0 Staten Island  
0 General Office

During that same time over the weekend, the Board received 474 online voter registration forms.

Secretary Umame added the Finance Committee Report to the meeting agenda, which replaces item #3, the Executive Session for Personnel Matters. Mr. Ryan stated that there are no personnel matters to discuss today.

President Pepe-Souvenir asked if there will be a second Local Registration Day. Mr. Ryan confirmed that the second Local Registration Day will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, and there will be the same number of locations spread out through the boroughs.

Secretary Umame stated that a woeful turnout at Local Registrations might be something we want to raise with the legislative package that we might be putting together, if and when we get up to Albany to recommend legislative changes. It seems to be a large use of resources, with minimal return. The Commissioner further noted that we've had major registration drives throughout

the year, locally and at various community functions. But these particular formal registrations don't get a lot of publicity, and we get a very low turnout, maybe these resources could be allocated in a better way potentially for the future.

Mr. Ryan continued with the following updates:

In addition, the Board received 10 absentee ballot applications and 1 early mail ballot application citywide. The next Location Registration Day is October 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, a list of the sites can be found on the Board's website at [vote.nyc](http://vote.nyc) or by calling 1-866-Vote-NYC.

Preparations for the upcoming General Election are ongoing, and we are on target to hit all of the various goals and dates. We are continuing to process early mail and absentee ballots. To date, the Board has processed 204,683 mail ballots, including early mail and absentee. The deadline to apply for a mail ballot, by mail or online, is October 26<sup>th</sup> and you can apply in person until November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Poll Worker Recruitment Campaign has entered its final week. As of yesterday, the Board has recruited over 25,000 new poll worker applications and has trained 26,779 poll workers, and classes remain ongoing.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #1 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Commissioners Meeting.

Hearing no objections or proposed amendments, the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Commissioners Meeting were adopted as submitted.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, Poll Worker Compensation for the 2024 Presidential General Election. With quite a bit of work, back and forth, and coordination with the Borough Chiefs and Deputies and input from all five counties, Executive Management is prepared to recommend the following bonus structure for the 2024 General Election only.

For Poll Workers who work Monday through Friday, there will be a bonus of \$100, and a \$25 bonus for working Saturday or Sunday, and you must work 4 days and election day to be eligible for a bonus. For clarification, Secretary Umame confirmed that this is per day. Mr. Ryan stated that you only qualify if you work the 4 days and election day.

For Coordinators it will be a bonus of \$125 per day for working Monday through Friday, with a \$50 bonus for working Saturday or Sunday, and must work 4 days and election day to be eligible for bonus. The Bonus will not be paid for election day only, in either case.

Mr. Ryan stated that this was the collective agreed upon recommendation of the Chiefs and Deputies, in coordination with Executive Management. This recommendation, as an expenditure of city resources, it would require a vote of at least 6 amongst the Commissioners.

President Pepe-Souvenir moved that we accept the suggested bonus schedule for both the Poll Workers and the Coordinators, as was discussed. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Umane stated that these bonuses are a result of the additional 4 hours that we are opening for the early voting period during the week. Commissioners and staff, and everybody, felt that because there was a significant additional amount of time being devoted by the poll workers, this additional bonus was justified for people working that shift.

Mr. Ryan stated for further clarification, applicable for the 2024 General Election only, and it would have to be revisited in the future if it was going to continue.

Hearing no objections, or abstentions, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan stated that we do have the Finance Committee Report, but we also have a member of the public that would like to address the Commissioners. Mr. Ryan acknowledged Marcia Reese and asked her to step up to the podium identify herself for the record.

Ms. Reese stated that she is a Trainer, Poll Worker and Coordinator and has called regarding her assignment for early voting. Ms. Reese mentioned that she has been assigned as an inspector for this election rather than a coordinator and would like to understand the reason behind this decision. Ms. Reese stated that she is a member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club and asked Michael Corbett, the Male District Leader, about her assignment, but did not receive a satisfactory explanation. Commissioner Edmead informed Ms. Reese that Mr. Corbett did not attend today's meeting but assured her that she would receive a full explanation regarding her assignment. Mr. Ryan informed Ms. Reese that this is essentially a personnel matter that will be dealt with internally, the Board has her contact information and will make sure that she gets an appropriate explanation.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda, the Finance Committee Report. Sherwin Suss, the Agency Chief Contract Officer, was asked to come forward and present the matter before the Commissioners Committee.

Mr. Suss presented the following:

**Finesse Creations**

This is the contract for rental of tables and chairs used by the Board for elections and training. Due to the multiple unanticipated special elections in 2022 the ceiling for this contract has been reached. This is a request to increase the contract ceiling by \$675,000 to pay for invoices owed for the past June election, current poll worker training and upcoming November election to complete the remainder of the term of the current agreement which ends 12/31/24. The new not to exceed contract ceiling amount will be \$3,000,120.

Secretary Umame stated that the Finance Committee has reviewed this with Mr. Suss and Executive Management, and as a committee it was approved and does not need a formal motion, it is a committee report.

Secretary Umame stated that the Finance Committee recommends that the Board accept the increase to this particular contract.

The contract was approved by the full Board of Commissioners.

## **A&H Security Services**

This is a contract to provide overnight security services to early voting poll sites when the sites are closed to voting. This contract will provide services to the Brooklyn and Staten Island early voting poll sites. This contract was procured through the M/WBE noncompetitive small purchase method pursuant to section 3-08 of the NYC Procurement Policy Board Rules. There were 6 vendors solicited and the vendor with the most resources and best price was selected. This is a one-year contract with a not to exceed amount of \$1,500,000.

Mr. Suss noted that we anticipate there are 40 sites that need coverage for Brooklyn and Staten Island for early voting that would require a minimum of 80 security personnel. The two lower priced companies had 90 persons or less. The one that was chosen had over 1,000 people employed and would be able to provide the resources needed, which is why this vendor was chosen.

Commissioner Edmead asked if the solicitation was based on the vendors reading a base qualification. Mr. Suss confirmed that a qualification list with the number of sites, hours, etc. was sent out to 6 minority women vendors, and they also sent back a qualification questionnaire along with the hourly rate that they would charge us for the time period. Mr. Ryan added that the process under the procurement rules is somewhat abbreviated as opposed to



a request for proposals, so we're allowed to do targeted solicitations under those circumstances.

Secretary Umame stated that the Finance Committee recommends this to the full Board for their approval.

The contract was approved by the full Board of Commissioners.

### **Securitas Technology**

This company currently provides cameras and alarm systems to all borough offices except the Queens borough office. This contract is a continuation of these services with updating of technology where needed. This contract was procured through the Sourcewell Government buying cooperative operated by the State of Minnesota to which the Board is a member. This is a 3-year contract with a not to exceed amount of \$1,181,472.

Secretary Umame stated that the Finance Committee recommends this to the full Board for their approval.

The contract was approved by the full Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. President Pepe-Souvenir seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.