

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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October 7, 2008  
Start: 10:30am  
Recess: N/A

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DIANA REYNA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria Baez  
Joel Rivera  
Melinda R. Katz  
Robert Jackson  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Inez E. Dickens  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Tony Avella  
Anthony Como  
Helen Sears  
Simcha Felder

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David I. Weprin

James Vacca

Michael E. McMahon

James S. Oddo

Eric Martin Dilan

Christine C. Quinn

Lewis A. Fidler

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Judith D. Stupp  
Downstate Operations Manager  
New York State Senate

Jose M. Araujo

2 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning.

3 [Pause]

4 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning.

5 Welcome to the Committee on Rules, Privileges and  
6 Elections. My name is Diana Reyna and I am Chair  
7 of this Committee. Before we begin I'd like to  
8 introduce my colleagues present here today,  
9 Council Member Maria Baez, Council Member, Joel  
10 Rivera, Council Member Melinda Katz, Council  
11 Member Robert Jackson, Council Member Melissa  
12 Mark-Viverito, Council Member Daniel Garodnick,  
13 Council Member Inez Dickens, Council Member Leroy  
14 Comrie, Council Member Vincent Gentile, Council  
15 Member Tony Avella, Council Member Anthony Como  
16 and Council Member Helen Sears, and Council Member  
17 Simcha Felder. Welcome. Before us today we have  
18 two candidates for appointment to the New York  
19 City Board of Elections. They are Judith Stupp  
20 and Jose Araujo. Ms. Stupp is being considered  
21 for appointment as the Republican Commissioner  
22 from Queens County. She will fill the vacant  
23 position previously held by our colleague, Anthony  
24 Como. Her appointment is for the remainder of a  
25 four-year term that began on January 1st, 2005 and

ends December 31st, 2008. For the record, her certificate for party recommendation was properly formatted and submitted. Mr. Araujo is being considered for appointment as the Democratic Commissioner from Queens County. He will fill the vacant position previously held by Terrence O'Connor. His appointment is for the remainder of a four-year term that began on January 1st, 2005 and ends December 31st, 2008. For the record, his certificate for party recommendation was properly formatted and submitted. First I will briefly describe the functions of the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections consists of ten Commissioners, two from each of the City's five counties, who are directly appointed by the New York City Council. Not more than two Commissioners shall be registered voters of the same county. Each Commissioner serves a term of four years or until a successor is appointed. Commissioners shall be registered voters from each of the major parties in the county for which they are appointed. The Board and its Commissioners are responsible for the maintenance and administration of voting records and elections.

2 The Board also exercises quasi-judicial powers by  
3 conducting hearings to validate nominating  
4 petitions of candidates for nomination to elective  
5 office. The Board is required to make an annual  
6 report of its affairs and proceedings to the New  
7 York City Council. Once every 12 months and no  
8 later than the last day of January in any year,  
9 Commissioners receive a \$300 per diem for each  
10 day's attendance at meetings of the Board or any  
11 of its Committees with a maximum of \$30,000 per  
12 year. We will begin with Ms. Stupp. Welcome and  
13 please raise your right hand and be sworn in by  
14 Counsel.

15 COUNSEL: Do you swear or affirm to  
16 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
17 the truth?

18 JUDITH D. STUPP: I do.

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: And if you have  
20 a statement at this moment is the appropriate time  
21 to share with us. Thank you.

22 [Pause]

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Just get  
24 closer. Yes.

25 JUDITH D. STUPP: All right. Thank

2 you.

3 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you.

4 JUDITH D. STUPP: Good morning,  
5 Chairwoman Reyna, Majority Leader Rivera and  
6 Minority Leader Oddo. I greatly appreciate this  
7 opportunity to appear before the New York City  
8 Council Rules Committee as you consider my  
9 appointment to the office Commissioner of  
10 Elections. I would be honored to receive your  
11 support for this position and for the opportunity  
12 to serve Queens County and the City of New York.  
13 The Election Law mandates this bipartisan Board of  
14 Elections with an equal number of Commissioners  
15 from both major parties, and I would be honored to  
16 serve as Commissioner to advance and help achieve  
17 the goals of the New York City Board of Elections.  
18 I believe that I do have the moral integrity to  
19 serve based upon my many years of public service,  
20 where I believe I have earned a reputation as an  
21 honest and fair minded individual with a hard work  
22 ethic, committed to serving the people. I serve  
23 as the Downstate Operations Manager for the New  
24 York State Senate and I am proud to have received  
25 support for this appointment from the Senate

Majority Leader Dean Skelos as well as other public officials. My senate position poses no conflict with our rules in the senate or New York State Election Law. I am the daughter of an immigrant; I am married to a son of two immigrants, and these naturalized Americans, similar to immigrants the world over who came to this country, sought American citizenship and valued the right to vote in this great country. The fundamental liberties of American citizenship are girded by ballot access, ballot safety and ballot integrity. If approved, I will be committed to working hard to ensure ballot security and to guarantee that the voters' and the candidates' rights are safeguarded and that fair and equitable elections are conducted in the City of New York. I realize that complying with the Help America Vote Act, HAVA, is presenting New York City and the election boards across the state with extraordinary challenges. But the unique challenges, both technical and budgetary, also offer unique opportunities to modernize the operations of the New York City Board of Elections. Much work remains requiring the



2 introduction of new, fully accessible machines,  
3 the retraining of existing staff and the hiring of  
4 new technically proficient staff, all within  
5 limited budgets and timeframes dictated by federal  
6 orders, or we risk being held in contempt. If the  
7 job isn't done well and we don't get it right, our  
8 most fundamental liberties and rights will be  
9 hamstrung. I will close with my assurance to you  
10 that should this body approve my appointment to  
11 the office of Commissioner of Elections, I will  
12 honestly and faithfully carry out the duties to  
13 which I will be entrusted, on behalf of the  
14 citizens of the City of New York. I am highly  
15 honored to be considered for this post, and even  
16 more so to appear before this legislative body,  
17 which does the people's work in my beloved adopted  
18 City of New York. Thank you again for this  
19 opportunity to appear before you this morning, and  
20 I look forward to answering any questions you may  
21 have.

22 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you very  
23 much, Ms. Stupp. And I would like to ask Mr.  
24 Araujo to please raise your right hand and be  
25 sworn in by Counsel.

2 COUNSEL: Do you swear or affirm to  
3 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
4 the truth?

5 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I do.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Do you have a  
7 statement that you'd like to share?

8 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Yes, just a very  
9 brief statement.

10 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you.

11 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I wish to thank  
12 all the Committee Members for having me before you  
13 and I wish to express my gratitude for the  
14 consideration that you are going to bestow on me.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. I'd  
17 like to call on my colleague, Council Member  
18 Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
20 you, Madam Chair. And Mr. Araujo and Ms. Stupp,  
21 thank you for being here and congratulations in  
22 advance. I did have a few issues that I wanted to  
23 raise with you. Obviously we are at a  
24 particularly sensitive time for the New York City  
25 Board of Elections, the New York State Board of

2 Elections, compliance with HAVA is an issue. We  
3 have new machines even this year with the ballot  
4 marking devices that are available for people that  
5 many people do not even realize are available to  
6 them. And so what I wanted to ask you about is--  
7 the first question has to do with something that  
8 came up at a hearing last week or two weeks ago  
9 with the City Board of Elections and looking at  
10 what we need to do to be prepared for November.  
11 Many of us asked questions of the Executive  
12 Director and the Counsel about the things that  
13 we'd like to see done or what the level of  
14 information we'd like to see shared with the  
15 public about these new machines, about information  
16 that people can get about who they're voting for  
17 in advance. And the response was frequently; we  
18 don't have the resources to be able to accomplish  
19 that. Now of course the City Board of Elections  
20 is funded by the City. The question for you all  
21 is, what can the City Board of Elections do to be  
22 able to give us in the Council more of an  
23 understanding of what your needs are, how much you  
24 spend on various things or how much the Board  
25 spends on various things, and I'm looking

2 prospectively here for both of you; do you think  
3 this should be included in the Mayor's management  
4 report as to how the Board of Elections functions  
5 and how it uses its money? I wanted to really  
6 give you a chance to talk to that issue because  
7 it's one which I think you're going to be facing  
8 soon. And it's one which when we want to be able  
9 to be helpful to the City Board of Elections, it  
10 presents a challenge, because we don't know  
11 exactly why the resources aren't available for  
12 certain things. We don't know exactly how the  
13 money is being spent. So I'll give you both the  
14 opportunity to answer that one.

15 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I believe there  
16 should be definitely an open line of  
17 communications between various agencies in order  
18 to be able to show what is actually needed and  
19 where things are being appropriated, where the  
20 funds are being appropriated. I think with that  
21 we'll be able to displace certain funds for  
22 certain things and concentrate in additional areas  
23 where the funds are really needed. And I think  
24 that that would be the best route to go at this  
25 time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNIC: Do you  
3 think it's appropriate for the Board of Elections  
4 to include its operations in the Mayor's  
5 management report?

6 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I think it can be  
7 helpful, and I think after due consideration of  
8 all the pros and cons, it can be a possibility.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay.  
10 Ms. Stupp?

11 JUDITH D. STUPP: To be honest, I  
12 really don't know how it's presently done. And  
13 that would be something that I, if approved, would  
14 discussed with other Commissioners to see if this  
15 is something that's been talked about. I mean I  
16 do think that the best procedure is always open  
17 communication. You know?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay.  
19 Well we certainly hope to have that. And I just  
20 want to encourage you here-- encourage you today  
21 while you're here that for our sake in the Council  
22 as one of the oversight entities of the City Board  
23 of Elections, we need to be able to understand  
24 exactly what's happening to be able to support the  
25 work that you all are doing. And this is a very

2 difficult job that you're embarking on, because  
3 there's many layers of jurisdiction here and the  
4 funding is coming from one place and the authority  
5 is coming from another and that presents its own  
6 challenges. But we need your help in establishing  
7 those objective criteria as to how we can measure  
8 performance. And that's something that I hope you  
9 will both advocate for as Commissioners. Another  
10 issue I wanted to raise with you; some of the  
11 advocates have proposed setting up a searchable  
12 database, something online, so that voters can the  
13 City can go on to the City Board of Elections  
14 website and figure out, in their own election  
15 district, who are the candidates, so that they can  
16 actually either look at a sample ballot in advance  
17 or just see the names in advance, so they actually  
18 know who they're looking at. Is that something  
19 that you would push for? Do you think that that's  
20 important? How does that play in your list of  
21 priorities?

22 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I actually believe  
23 that that's actually a very good idea. Education  
24 is always the best route, and the more people  
25 know, the more informed the decision can be.

2 Election day shouldn't be the day that you're  
3 making these ultimate life-changing decisions.  
4 They should be well studied and well informed on  
5 Election Day.

6 JUDITH D. STUPP: And I agree  
7 completely, especially as we try to recruit more  
8 and more young people to be active in the  
9 democratic process and to become new voters. That  
10 is the way they learn. That is the way they  
11 connect with what's going on in the world; through  
12 the Internet, so it's vital.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: So you  
14 would support that.

15 JUDITH D. STUPP: Absolutely.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay.  
17 And one point on that front; next year we have  
18 City Elections and there is a video voter guide.  
19 One thing which would make a lot of sense, I  
20 think, would be to link the ability to search for  
21 the candidates in your area with the video voter  
22 guide, so you actually could hear what they have  
23 to say all at the same time, which is something  
24 that I hope you will take a hard look at when  
25 you're there. The last point I wanted to make,

2 and Ms. Stupp, you said in the answers to your  
3 questionnaire that you think we need to do more to  
4 recruit bipartisan applicants to be poll workers,  
5 and I completely agree with you. Because it seems  
6 like there is a considerable drop off come  
7 Election Day when you have some poll workers who  
8 are trained who don't show up. You have other  
9 problems that result. I just wanted to hear from  
10 you both as to what more you think the Board of  
11 Elections should be doing to recruit these highly  
12 competent and capable applicants to be poll  
13 workers on Election Day; so if there's any  
14 creative ways we might be able to find to address  
15 those issues.

16 JUDITH D. STUPP: I think maybe one  
17 of the newer ways, if it's not already being done,  
18 is again, over the Internet, because that's where  
19 we're going to pick up more of the technically  
20 savvy, you know, computer able people. On the  
21 other hand, I think that we just have to keep  
22 doing more with public service announcements and  
23 advertising. I mean today and this Saturday in  
24 Queens are the voter registration drives. I  
25 actually didn't see too many public service



2 announcements about it. I've seen a few, but I  
3 think more needed to be done about this. And so,  
4 if this is an indication that we're lax in really  
5 alerting the public to what's happening, we just  
6 have to reach out in a very broad area to educate  
7 the people, let them know what's going on. With  
8 the new equipment that's out there, we need to  
9 broaden this base.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Ms.

11 Stupp, do you think we do enough to bring college  
12 students into the process? Do you think they  
13 might be an opportunity for the City to look at  
14 for, as a group that might want to earn a few  
15 bucks on one particular day and might be able to  
16 serve in this roll?

17 JUDITH D. STUPP: Well, I have a  
18 son who just graduated from college and a daughter  
19 in college. And generally they're not available.  
20 They're not available. They're out there trying  
21 to find a job and if they have a job they may not  
22 be available to give up a day to do that. But  
23 they certainly want to be aware of what's going  
24 on, when it is time to register to vote. I've got  
25 a daughter who is studying abroad right now who is

2 so aware of that absentee ballot and waiting for  
3 that absentee ballot to come. But as a student  
4 she wouldn't be available to give up a day to work  
5 as a poll worker. You know, so I think the  
6 student population is a difficult one. But, you  
7 know, I mean there's a lot of other places to find  
8 people.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I'm  
10 going to give Mr. Araujo an opportunity to answer  
11 this. And that's really all my questions. But I  
12 want to just respectfully disagree on that point,  
13 because I do think the students who are in New  
14 York City would be a very rich place for us to  
15 look as a possibility, people who might be  
16 interested in serving in a different way on an  
17 election day, in a way that they might not have  
18 done before and also are trainable and  
19 enthusiastic. So I wouldn't limit it right off  
20 the bat. I understand that it wouldn't work for  
21 all students, of course.

22 JUDITH D. STUPP: Right.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: But I do  
24 think that you shouldn't shut that off quite so  
25 fast because I think that that creates a real

2 opportunity--

3 JUDITH D. STUPP: [Interposing] Oh,  
4 I'm sorry--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: And  
6 everybody has conflicts, of course. And that's  
7 one of the reasons why we sometimes have trouble  
8 recruiting poll workers. So what I wanted to  
9 encourage was some openness and to try to explore  
10 new avenues, ones that we perhaps have not been  
11 quite as aggressive in, in the past. I think that  
12 college students is a perfect way to go, but I  
13 just, I leave that to you as a thought.

14 JUDITH D. STUPP: Oh no. I'm  
15 sorry. I actually do agree with you. I think  
16 that trying to recruit college students and  
17 college graduates is always a good thing to do. I  
18 was just thinking that if they had already  
19 graduated, it may not be something that-- there  
20 might be a drop off rate there, but--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:  
22 [Interposing] Fair enough.

23 JUDITH D. STUPP: But certainly to  
24 pursue it is a noble thing.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Good.

2 Thank you. Mr. Araujo?

3 JOSE M. ARAUJO: I definitely agree  
4 with your analysis of what should be done. I do  
5 believe that our youth are the future, and I think  
6 the major problem at this point is that people  
7 aren't aware of these positions. I'm sure as a  
8 college student or as a law student I would have  
9 been more than happy to work a poll site for a day  
10 to earn some extra money, especially in this  
11 trying economy. I think if we educate our  
12 schools, our students, and let them know that  
13 these positions are available and that you can  
14 earn some money and that there's a different part  
15 of the election day itself, actually working  
16 besides the vote, I think that will assist in  
17 getting people to go out there and work.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Great.  
19 I appreciate that and I agree with that and I wish  
20 you both all the best of look, look forward to  
21 having that open line of communication, because I  
22 do think that these issues are very difficult.  
23 And congratulations.

24 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank

2 you, Madam Chair.

3 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you,  
4 Council Member Garodnick. We have been joined by  
5 Council Member David Weprin, Council Member  
6 Melinda Katz, and Council Member Jimmy Vacca. I  
7 do want to take an opportunity to just ask,  
8 highlight the fact that all ten Commissioners will  
9 be up for reappointment before December 31st or  
10 shortly after. If there were three priorities,  
11 given that both of you are here before us today,  
12 that the ten Commissioners, hence your  
13 appointment, should be focusing on, what would  
14 they be? And I ask, only because it's easy to say  
15 we need more public announcements, and yes, I  
16 agree with you, Ms. Stupp. We don't see them  
17 enough, and especially in a presidential election  
18 year. What or how can we make sure that there is  
19 an interval cycle of public announcements to get  
20 out the vote, a very bipartisan effort? And you  
21 mentioned young people and you mentioned voter  
22 registration drives. So I just want to focus in  
23 on what three priorities, as two appointees to the  
24 Commission, would you concentrate to bring forth  
25 to your colleagues to work on to be able to have

2 measurable deliverables? Either of you.

3 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Okay. I believe  
4 the most important thing that we'll all be facing  
5 is the HAVA requirements. I think that has to be  
6 top priority, making sure we're in compliance with  
7 these rules and regulations. The second thing,  
8 and I think the most important thing in addition  
9 HAVA, is education. I think we have to get out  
10 there, put the word out and get all the  
11 Commissioners in line with the understanding that  
12 education is a very important thing, that we need  
13 to go back to going out, hitting the streets, and  
14 getting people to come in and vote. The last  
15 thing is I think one of the most important things  
16 to, and one of the things that we overlook, is  
17 getting qualified workers to come in and fill  
18 these positions and do the work not only on  
19 election day, but at the county headquarters, at  
20 the headquarters of the Board of Elections in each  
21 county and being able to work effectively with  
22 each other.

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you.

24 JUDITH D. STUPP: And I would have  
25 to repeat the same thing, it's the HAVA

2 compliance, to be in compliance with HAVA and to  
3 make sure that we really do have people who are  
4 skilled in using this equipment with the ballot  
5 marking devices that we presently have, with  
6 whatever other machinery that we will have, and  
7 the education is so important.

8 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. And  
9 I'd like to call on Council Member Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much, Madam Chair. Thank you to the two of  
12 you for taking on such a large responsibility of  
13 becoming a Commissioner of the Board of Elections.  
14 We are coming upon a very important time in  
15 November and next year with the City having  
16 various elections from Mayor on down to the City  
17 Council, we know that, this, the Board of  
18 Elections is going to be taking on a huge  
19 responsibility in making sure that we can comply  
20 not only with HAVA but making sure that the voters  
21 are fully knowledgeable of how these ballot  
22 marking devices actually work. You have had  
23 advocates and activists speak out in response to a  
24 lot of the concerns, you know, in terms of what  
25 the machines can or cannot do and how secure they

2 are. So I think it's going to be incumbent upon  
3 us to really work hard to make sure that the voter  
4 information and education is out there so that way  
5 every single voter can feel comfortable with  
6 taking part in a new, entirely new, process. Ms.  
7 Stupp, you stated correctly that technology is the  
8 way the new generation is going, so I think that  
9 it won't be as difficult. But we have a very  
10 dynamic senior population that is still the voting  
11 base of the City of New York and we want to make  
12 sure that the new technology doesn't, you know, in  
13 any way shape or form inhibit them from casting a  
14 vote that they, you know, feel strongly about. So  
15 this is going to be a very trying time and you  
16 know, I know it's going to consume a lot more than  
17 you probably can imagine; and I just want to thank  
18 you for that because this is, at the end of the  
19 day, you're protecting the rights of the voters  
20 and the rights of the candidates as you eloquently  
21 said in your statement. You know, voter  
22 registration has always been a topic of discussion  
23 amongst candidates, amongst different not-for-  
24 profit organizations, and I think that, you know,  
25 in the City of New York you've had voter



2 participation dwindle down over the past several  
3 generations. And you see that you have, you know,  
4 countless amounts of registered democrats,  
5 republicans, independents, who do not take part  
6 within the voting process for various reasons. So  
7 I think now more than ever, besides just voter  
8 registration, we need to actively engage, you  
9 know, the voters in the City of New York. And the  
10 best thing we can do is empower our Board of  
11 Elections to go out there, not only with the  
12 college students, in the high schools. Talk to  
13 seniors right when they're about to graduate and  
14 say, the first thing you should do once you turn  
15 18 is to register to vote. Maybe we should have  
16 mock elections in the high schools, in the senior  
17 classes, to teach Civics and to teach about civic  
18 responsibility so that way the graduating seniors  
19 will say, you know what, this is my government,  
20 this is something I want to be active in and now  
21 they are given information about how to do so.  
22 Again, I just want to thank the two of you,  
23 because it is going to be a very daunting task in  
24 front of you. It's going to be very trying and I  
25 know you have other professions that require a

2 tremendous amount of your time; and this is, you  
3 know, an additional role that you're assuming and  
4 it's a role that you probably will not be  
5 compensated enough for. So I just want to thank  
6 you, you know, for taking on this responsibility.  
7 And I want to let you know that the Council will  
8 be there in support of your actions in ensuring  
9 that the voters' and the candidates' rights are  
10 protected.

11 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 JUDITH D. STUPP: Thank you very  
14 much.

15 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you,  
16 Council Member Rivera. Council Member Leroy  
17 Comrie, followed by Tony Avella and then Council  
18 Member Inez Dickens.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you  
20 Madam Chair. I wanted to just take an opportunity  
21 to congratulate both candidates and to point out  
22 to my colleagues that are both great  
23 representatives of the diversity and the beauty of  
24 the best borough in the City, which is Queens.  
25 And I wanted to thank them for wanting to take

2 this time to increase their level of service to  
3 the City by being representatives to the Board of  
4 Elections from Queens. And I hope that my  
5 colleagues will understand that as the Board of  
6 Elections is struggling to become HAVA compliant,  
7 it's not the Board's struggle, it's the state, the  
8 failure of the state, to make sure that all the  
9 HAVA regulations are in place. The Board of  
10 Elections as they have come before us on many  
11 times has expressed their frustration at not  
12 getting the full or final resolution from the  
13 state and federal government on HAVA compliance.  
14 So, I'm sure that both candidates will be doing  
15 everything that they can to ensure that once there  
16 is a standard in place, that there will be a  
17 standard that's transparent, that there will be a  
18 standard that will insure that every person's vote  
19 is protected; and it will be a standard that we  
20 can be proud of as New York City residents. So  
21 congratulations to both of them in advance. I  
22 wish them-- and we'll see them back in a couple of  
23 months, so they'll be back and they'll have an  
24 opportunity to go through this election and we'll  
25 see if they still want the job.

2 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you  
3 Council Member Comrie. I'd like to just interrupt  
4 the order. Council Member Jackson has to excuse  
5 himself, so I'd like to just have him place his  
6 vote.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
8 I vote aye on both.

9 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I apologize,  
10 Council Member Avella. I'm just going to call  
11 upon Council Member Rivera for a vote.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
13 I have my Belmont Businesses next door for a bid  
14 meeting that we're going to have in the Finance  
15 hearing, so I just wanted to vote in the  
16 affirmative for your appointments to the Board of  
17 Elections, and we'll see you back in a couple of  
18 months, and I'm pretty sure it will be a good  
19 response then too.

20 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:  
22 Congratulations.

23 JUDITH D. STUPP: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. How  
25 do you vote?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you,  
4 Council Member Rivera. Council Member Tony  
5 Avella?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you  
7 Madam Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to  
8 speak; I don't sit on this committee. First of  
9 all, I want to congratulate both candidates. I  
10 think we have wonderful individuals to serve on  
11 the Board of Elections. But I did want to  
12 specifically mention the qualifications of Judith  
13 Stupp. Although she is being nominated as the  
14 republican person for the Board of Elections, she,  
15 I know, will do a wonderful job in a bipartisan  
16 manner. She and her husband, Herb, are  
17 constituents of my district. I know the family  
18 very well. They have been wonderful public  
19 servants their entire lives. And I know that she  
20 will do an excellent job and I urge the Committee  
21 to support her nomination.

22 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you  
23 Council Member Avella, and I wanted to just take  
24 the time, because Council Member Avella has  
25 already mentioned the family, we have been joined

2 by Mr. Stupp, who is a former Commissioner of the  
3 Department of the Aging.

4 [Applause]

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Council Member  
6 Dickens, thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
8 Madam Chair. And again, I want to add to my  
9 colleagues to say thank you to both of you for  
10 being willing to take on this task, which is a  
11 difficult one to say the least. And my colleague,  
12 Council Member Avella, answered my question;  
13 because I had a question about the relationship  
14 that Ms. Stupp has with her party affiliation,  
15 knowing that there has to be both republicans and  
16 democrats on the Board, Commissioners Board. And  
17 having listened to Council Member Comrie as well  
18 as Avella, I think that my question has been  
19 answered, that you will have the ability to be  
20 fair at the hearings; because petition challenges  
21 and other matters come up before the full Board.  
22 And I just had some concerns; but I think you will  
23 be able to address them.

24 JUDITH D. STUPP: I believe I will  
25 be as well. Thank you very much.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
3 so much. Thank you to both of you.

4 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you,  
6 Council Member Dickens. Are there any final  
7 comments, questions? Council Member Anthony Como.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: Thank you,  
9 Madam Chairwoman. I, together with my colleagues,  
10 would like to congratulate both candidates. As  
11 the former Commissioner that Judith is taking the  
12 position for, I know both Commissioners will have  
13 a big job to perform; not because it was me but  
14 just because of the job itself. I congratulate  
15 both of you. I know and you both are aware of the  
16 job that is in front of you together, as was  
17 pointed out by my colleagues, Councilman Comrie,  
18 that unfortunately the City Board has the added  
19 burden of acting when the State Board decides,  
20 they deem it's appropriate. But I know you will  
21 do it wisely and ethically and I congratulate both  
22 of you and I look forward to working with you and  
23 continue to working with the entire City Board in  
24 the future. Congratulations to both.

25 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you,

2 Council Member Como. Without further delay, I'd  
3 like to call for a vote.

4 CLERK: Council Member Reyna.

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye, and  
6 I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

7 CLERK: Baez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: I vote aye,  
9 and congratulations.

10 JOSE M. ARAUJO: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Comrie.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye  
13 and congratulations to both candidates.

14 CLERK: Katz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: McMahon.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MCMAHON: Aye.

18 CLERK: Weprin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on  
20 both.

21 CLERK: Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on  
23 both.

24 CLERK: Dickens.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:



2 Congratulations and Aye on both.

3 CLERK: Garodnick.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:

5 Congratulations and good luck and I vote aye on  
6 both. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Oddo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

9 CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the  
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
11 both items are adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Congratulations  
13 to our appointees. We will be waiting for the  
14 Speaker. This vote will remain open for a few  
15 more minutes. Thank you.

16 [Background Noise]

17 [Pause]

18 CLERK: Council Member Dilan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye  
20 on all.

21 [Pause]

22 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

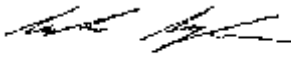
23 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

24 CLERK: Final vote on the Committee  
25 on Rules, Privileges and Elections now stands at

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 34  
2 14 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and 0  
3 abstentions. Thank you.  
4 [END TAPE 1002]  
5 [START TAPE 1003]  
6 CLERK: Committee on Rules,  
7 reopening of the roll call, Council Member Fidler.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.  
9 CLERK: Now final vote on the  
10 Committee on Rules now stands at 15 in the  
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions.  
12 Thank you.  
13

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Date October 20, 2008 \_\_\_\_\_