

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

LAW, RULES & ETHICS COMMITTEE

Monday, February 8, 2021 7:00PM

Zoom Conference

Minutes

Attendance:

Present (7): Sylvia Alexander, Lisa Daub, Paul Ellis, Steven Froot, Rosemary Ginty, Omar Murray, Martin Wolpoff, (Chair)

Absent (5): Bob Bender, Louis Lopez, Charles Moerdler, Dan Padernacht, Sergio Villaverde

Board Members (2): David Gelman, Camelia Tepelus

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
2. Approval of February minutes
Approved unanimously
3. Discussion of State COOG virtual conference on OML
Chair and Lisa Daub attended a February 14 virtual conference hosted by the New York State Committee on Open Government (COOG) focused on the Open Meetings Law. Chair forwarded to all Board members the conference's Power Point presentation. There was a brief discussion focusing on the intent of the Open Meetings Law (OML) concerning communications (verbal and written) among Board members. The intent of the OML law is unambiguous, communications which are part of the decision-making process, are subject to OML and should be subject to public scrutiny.
4. Discussion of latest COIB Agreements
The COIB did not share any Agreements during the past month.
5. Discussion of City Council Legislative spreadsheet
Chair had forwarded his latest Legislative spreadsheet to committee members
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - A. Chair advised that an invitation had been sent to the Campaign Finance Board to provide a speaker to address the March 8 LRE meeting. The request is for the speaker to address and explain the implementation of the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) that is to be

implemented for the first time, under the last City Charter revision. Special elections, like the one for our area to be held on March 23 to fill the unexpired term of Andy Cohen.

- B. There will also be a primary election to select party candidates and a November general election to elect Councilmember Cohen's full-term successor. Right now, there are six petition-accepted candidates. Only one can win. Voters need to understand that they are to vote by rank-ordering their preference. The winning candidate needs 51% of the vote as machine-scanned.
 - C. If that doesn't occur, the ballots of voters for the candidate with the lowest number of number 1 votes will be rescanned to assign additional votes to their number 2 choices. This process will continue to 3rd and 4th choices, as needed, until one candidate has the necessary 51%.
 - D. There have already been two special elections in Queens using this system.
 - E. It was suggested, as was the original plan, that the meeting be publicly announced, as the process may prove to be very confusing.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM. Next meeting Mar 8, 2021