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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Budget Ad Hoc Committee
January 15, 2018, 6:30 PM
Manhattan Community Board Six Office, 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1404**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Brian Van Nieuwenhoven (Chair), Jim Collins, Rick Eggers, Gene Santoro, Claude L. Winfield

Excused: Reshma Patel, Gary Papush, Elaine Tai

Guests: Molly Hollister, Chair of Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6); Ben Jacobs, Council Member Keith Powers' office; Brian Lafferty, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer's office

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes

Chair Van Nieuwenhoven called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made, seconded, and passed.

A motion to adopt the minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Discussion on election reform bills

The Committee Chair introduced a discussion of various potential election reforms, many of which are being considered by the New York State Legislature, some of which have not been introduced as legislation by the Legislature.

Among the election reform measures discussed by the Committee are as follows:

- A primary in June which combines national, state, and local primaries (which currently all have separate dates) into one date.
- Same day voter registration, so that people can vote on the same day that they register to vote.
- The ability to change your party registration anytime, including on the day of a primary election.

- Closing the so-called “LLC Loophole,” so that there are regulations on Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) that keep special interests from spending tens of millions of dollars on election campaigns.
- An expansion of voting rights for people on parole, so that people who are out of prison but on parole are able to vote.
- Party registration in order to vote in a primary.
- Ballots that are user-friendly and therefore easy for voters to read.
- Automatic voter registration, which allows for people to be registered to vote automatically unless they decide to opt-out of voting.
- Dealing with fusion voting, a practice through which two or more political parties on a ballot list the same candidate.

After discussion on these election reform measures, the committee decided to defer the matter of parolee voting to the next meeting. The committee also decided to support the following two measures:

- Party changes to up to 30 days before the general election.
- Automatic Voter Registration

Chair’s Report

Chair Van Nieuwenhoven entertained a general discussion on Budget Priorities and District Needs for Fiscal Year 2021.

Old/New Business

There was a discussion of the matter of city pensions funded at 75 percent (as of June 30, 2018) and the assumed compounded annual growth rate of 7 percent in a low-rate environment.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Van Nieuwenhoven declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Jim Collins.