



To: Maria R. Guastella
President, NYC Board of Elections

CC: Rose Gill Hearn
Commissioner, NYC Department of Investigation

Charles J. Hynes
Brooklyn District Attorney

Re: Voting Irregularities in Williamsburg, Brooklyn on Thursday, September 13

We are writing to express our deep concern that there was significant voter fraud and other illegal activity in the 50th Assembly District in Brooklyn during the Democratic Primary election on Thursday, September 13th. There is substantial, credible evidence, gathered from multiple sources, including documentation from Poll Watchers and interviews with Poll Workers and Voters, that illegal activity took place. These incidents occurred at the 215 Heyward Street polling place, which appears to have had the highest voter turnout in New York City by a significant margin (over 3300 votes cast on 09/13/2012). At this polling place alone, there were numerous credible reports of:

- Persons voting on behalf of registered voters who were not themselves present to vote. During this election, the Board of Elections collected 24 affidavit ballots from individuals in the Williamsburg community on which the individuals indicated that someone already signed the scribe book on their behalf and voted. Nine of these affidavit ballots are from 215 Heyward Street.
- Multiple individuals who were out of the country on September 13 to celebrate the New Year in Ukraine signed the scribe book and cast ballots.
- Poll Workers and Site Coordinators reporting that they were seeing "the same people" return to vote more than once.
- One young man clearly under the age of 25 gave a name at the registration table that was listed as a person in their late forties; when asked to confirm their date of birth by a Poll Worker, he fled the scene.

- One supposed voter was identified as a non resident of the district who was attempting to vote under another name. When this young man was identified and then confronted by the Site Coordinator while waiting in line to cast his ballot, he fled the scene.

- At 215 Heyward, there were upwards of 30 to 50 non-voters inside the polling place personally approaching voters and:

- Entering the polling place with voters to assist them in marking their ballot.
- Giving literature to voters and "stuffing" the privacy booths with campaign literature.

- Several voters were observed at the registration table being handed the book by poll workers or taking the registration book from poll workers so they could locate their own name.

- After a voter was instructed to redo her ballot due to poor markings, a non-voter operative who stayed in the polling place throughout the day, inspected the voter's ballot, and, on seeing she voted for the "wrong" candidate, completed the new ballot for her – this time voting for the "right" candidate.

- The main entrance door to the polling place was repeatedly flanked by two young men from a campaign who would approach voters as they entered the room. When confronted by the Site Coordinator, it was insisted that these men were merely "Poll Watchers."

- Multiple entrances to the Polling Place were left unsecured and provided access in and out for the dozens of non-voters who were approaching and directing voters and inspecting their ballots. Police officers and poll workers would repeatedly try to clear the room of these unauthorized persons only to have them re-enter and continue their activities moments later.

- When Poll Watchers witnessed the repeated offenses of voter fraud, electioneering, and inappropriate contact with voters taking place inside the Polling Place, they complained to the Site Coordinators and the BOE. Eventually, multiple police officers were called to the scene along with several BOE officials. At one point the Site Coordinator ordered that all scanning of ballots be halted until "order could be restored."

- Shortly after the polls closed, one Poll Worker circulated a hand-written petition demanding higher pay and better work conditions because of her complete frustration with what she experienced during the day. The Poll Workers at 215 Heyward were visibly frustrated at the "chaos" which could not be controlled by the Site Coordinator,

nor the police throughout the day.

Something must be done. We have examined credible evidence to show that there was an organized effort to commit voter fraud at 215 Heyward. The chaos created by so many non-voters in the room was by design and was apparent as a scheme to facilitate the strong-arming of voters present and to distract from the repeat voting by young campaign operatives. A more thorough examination of the problem can only be made by interviewing each of the Poll Workers who were present, but some practical steps must be implemented in the next election to prevent further fraud:

- Increase the number of polling sites in Williamsburg to dramatically reduce the magnitude of people voting at a single polling location. With 3,300 voters on September 13, the polling site at 215 Heyward seems to be the largest in New York City by a significant margin.
- Ensure at least some BOE staff at the polling sites have proficiency in Yiddish. By having staff that is able to understand the primary language used in this community, it will discourage outright electioneering in the polling site.
- Enforce regulations regarding numbers of poll watchers permitted to be present inside of polling site and prevent all other non-voters from milling around the polling site.
- Strictly bar dissemination of materials on behalf of candidates or other information regarding names and identifications of voters inside polling site.
- Advise poll workers to not allow voters to find their names in the scribe books. Protocol should clearly inform workers that voters are not permitted to even view the books to assist in finding their names.
- Provide additional clear and specific training to poll workers who will be working in the election districts that comprise this community regarding the process for challenging ballots by voters who may not be the individuals they claim to be.
- Considering the extent of the irregularities identified on September 13, we recommend that all poll workers from 215 Heyward be interviewed regarding the voter fraud and voting irregularities that were witnessed. We recommend forensic experts review the scribe books. We also recommend that investigators assess whether individuals who were out of town during the election, for example celebrating the Jewish New Year in Uman, Ukraine, or were otherwise unable to vote somehow had their names signed for in the scribe books.

Public confidence in the integrity of our voting process is perhaps the most fundamental element of our democratic society. The pandemonium and alleged fraud at 215 Heyward Street on Thursday, September 13 is an embarrassment for our City that must be thoroughly investigated. We strongly urge the Board of Elections to swiftly implement a series of reforms that will ensure that accuracy and integrity of the voting process moving forward.

Thank you,

Alex Low
President
New Kings Democrats

Matt Cowherd
Founding President
New Kings Democrats