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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Voting Reform Task Force**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - 6:30PM**  
*This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom*

**MINUTES:**

**Present:** Co-chairs Weiner and Cohn, Birnbaum, Popper, Camp, Rudder, Spagnoletti, Hartzog, Strong-Shinozaki, Squire, Lader, Mason

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

Co-chair Shari Weiner had provided the official list of voting sites in preparation for a discussion of both voting sites in general and the possible addition of sites for the June 22 Municipal Primaries, which will be the first in our district with ranked choice voting. Before the discussion of possible sites, the Committee reviewed the BOE criteria for voting sites:

1. Larger than 500 SF
2. Accessible
3. Available bathroom facilities for Poll Workers
4. Available from 5AM to 10PM on Election Day
5. Available for delivery and pick up of materials

The initial discussion was in response to a request to find more polling places in the District. Among the more appropriate suggestions were the Armory, Park Avenue Methodist at 86<sup>th</sup> Street, the large Meeting room at Loyola on Park Avenue, Asphalt Green, and the Mormon church on 88<sup>th</sup> Street. It became clear that part of the problem voters faced in the November General Election centered on the relative lack of early voting sites and the very different level of experience from site to site and day to day.

The general consensus was that there were too few early voting sites and that the addition of Marymount came late. Co-chair Weiner thanked Assemblyperson Seawright for securing the Marymount site, and also securing their continued participation in the coming primary. A concern raised by many commenters was that the ranked-choice voting system, which will be in place, will be likely to slow down the voting process for many voters, adding to the long lines experienced last November.

A couple of intriguing suggestions had to do with drop boxes in locations more widespread than just regular polling places; these might include large apartment buildings. Another suggestion was that since the Primary will likely be held in good weather, mobile sites in John Jay Park, or Carl Schurz Park might ease overcrowding.

A suggestion was made for a PSA about ranked choice voting. The ballot will not be certified until the end of April, so time will be of the essence.

The next meeting of the Task Force will focus on the mechanics of Ranked Choice Voting, and the creation of the aforementioned PSA.

*Anthony Cohn and Shari Weiner, Co-Chairs*