

**BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
AS A DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD**

---

Objections of: WILLIAM TAYLOR )  
 )  
 )  
To the Nomination ) No.: 15-EB-ALD-103  
Papers of: NATASHIA L. HOLMES )  
 ) Rel. ALD-110  
Candidate for the office of )  
Alderman of the 7th Ward, City of Chicago )

**FINDINGS AND DECISION**

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago Commissioners Langdon D. Neal, Richard A. Cowen, and Marisel A. Hernandez, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Langdon D. Neal, Chairman of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections (“Objections”) of WILLIAM TAYLOR (“Objector”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of NATASHIA L. HOLMES, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 7th Ward of the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 24, 2015, having convened on December 16, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 800, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, and having heard and determined the Objections to the Nomination Papers in the above-entitled matter, finds that:

1. Objections to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate herein were duly and timely filed.
2. The said Electoral Board has been legally constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chairman of the Electoral Board and served upon the members of the Electoral Board, the Objector and the Candidate, by registered or certified mail and by Sheriff's service, as provided by statute.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on December 16, 2014 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer John R. Ashenden for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon them to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector, WILLIAM TAYLOR, by his attorney Randy Crumpton; the Candidate, NATASHIA L. HOLMES, by her attorney, Ross D. Secler.

7. The Candidate filed a motion to strike and dismiss the Objector's Petition.

8. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. The Hearing Officer recommends that the Candidate's motion to strike and dismiss the Objector's Petition be granted and that the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers be dismissed.

9. The Electoral Board, having reviewed the record of proceedings in this matter and having considered the report and recommendations of the Hearing Officer, as well as all argument and evidence submitted by the parties, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and conclusions of law. A copy of the Hearing Officer report and recommendations is attached hereto and is incorporated herein as part of the decision of the Electoral Board.

10. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board dismisses the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers.

11. The Electoral Board further finds that objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers were filed in related case ALD-110, that such objections are still pending and they will determine whether the Candidate's Nomination Papers are valid or invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of WILLIAM TAYLOR to the Nomination Papers of NATASHIA L. HOLMES, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 7th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby DISMISSED.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 5, 2015.

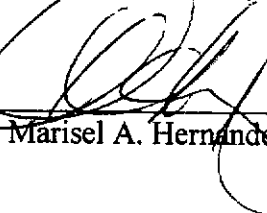
---

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman



---

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner



---

Marisel A. Hernandez, Commissioner

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1) a party aggrieved of this decision and seeking judicial review of this decision must file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County within 5 days after service of the decision of the Electoral Board.

BEFORE THE CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM TAYLOR, )  
vs. Objector, )  
NATASHIA L. HOLMES, )  
Candidate. )  
No. 15-EB-ALD-103  
John R. Ashenden  
Hearing Officer

CHICAGO BOARD OF  
ELECTION COMMISSIONERS  
2014 DEC 31 P

HEARING OFFICER'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter having come before the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners ("CBOE") on the Verified Objector's Petition of William Taylor ("objector") to the nomination papers of Natashia L. Holmes ("candidate"), John R. Ashenden, Hearing Officer, finds and recommends as follows:

December 9, 2014 Initial Hearing

1. The candidate appeared through legal counsel Ross Secler. The objector appeared through legal counsel Randy Crumpton. Board Group Exhibits A through D were marked and admitted as Candidate Nomination Papers, Objector's Petition, Returns of Service and Appearances, respectively. Candidate will file motion to dismiss by 5 pm tomorrow. Objector to file response on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Candidate to reply, if desired by 4 pm on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Hearing on the motions set for December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Candidate's Motion to Strike, Objector's Response and Candidate's Reply

2. On December 10, 2014, Candidate served her Motion to Strike and Dismiss verified Objector's Petition and to Bar Evidence ("Candidate's Motion to Strike"). In her Motion, Candidate argues Objector's Petition is insufficient in law and fact and should be dismissed in that it fails to state fully the nature of the objections; fails to provide Candidate with adequate notice of specific allegations against her. Candidate argued in the alternative that specific portions of Objector's Petition were legally deficient and should be stricken.

3. On December 11, 2014, Objector served his Response to Motion to Dismiss ("Objector's Response"). In Response Objector argued that the Board the Candidate's Motion to Strike should be denied since Objector's Petition gave adequate notice, Petition's allegations were clear, and that issues of fact should be decided by a trier of fact.

4. On December 16, 2014, Candidate served her Reply to Response to Candidate's Motion to Dismiss Objector's Response ("Candidate's Reply"). Candidate argued that Objector's Response was not timely served upon her, and should be stricken on that basis. Candidate restated arguments from her Motion to Strike, and argued further that even if the Board sustained all of Objector's challenged signatures, Candidate would still have enough valid signatures to appear on the ballot.

December 16, 2014 Hearing

5. Candidate and Objector both appeared at the hearing through their respective attorneys. It was determined that due to an email error Objector's Response was not timely served. Subsequently, Objector's Response and Candidate's Reply were both stricken. After oral

arguments on Candidate's Motion to Strike, Objector agreed to withdraw 57 objections that appeared in paragraph 11 of Candidate's Motion to Strike. A status hearing was set for December 18, 2014, where Objector's attorney would prepare a Recapitulation sheet that reflected the withdrawn objections. At least 20 additional objections were confusing and failed to adequately notify the Candidate because the Objector checked boxes on the line or in wrong box.

December 17, 2014

6. On December 17, 2014 Objector's Counsel sent notice to Hearing Officer and Candidate's Counsel indicating Objector's "Plan to withdraw the Objector's Petition tomorrow" at the December 18th hearing.

December 18, 2014 Hearing

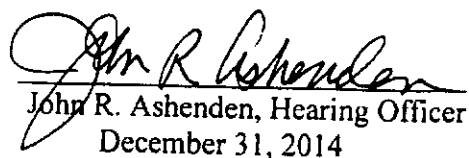
7. At the hearing on December 18th, Objector's Counsel stated on the record that his client no longer intended to withdraw the Objector's Petition. After argument, Candidate's Motion to Dismiss or Strike Objector's Petition was granted in part and denied in part. Charles Holiday testified under oath to the results of the Record Examination that took place on December 8, 2014. His testimony and the Board's Summary Report showed that Candidate had 1171 valid signatures, far above the statutory minimum of 473. Objector's counsel requested additional arguments on the whole sheet objections and fraud allegation. Hearing Officer ordered supplemental briefs on Candidate's motion to dismiss Objector's Whole Sheet Objections. A briefing schedule was set and the matter was set for hearing on December 23, 2014.

December 23, 2014 Hearing

8. Candidate presented her Motion to Strike Whole Sheet Objections. Objector's attorney opted not to file a written response to Candidate's Motion to Strike Whole-Sheet Objections, but instead orally argued the objections on the record. After the arguments, Hearing Officer generally agreed with the Candidate's positions taken in their Motion to Strike Whole Sheet Objections, and subsequently granted Candidate's Motion to Strike and Dismiss Verified Objector's Petition and to Bar Evidence as reflected in the 12/23/14 Transcript pages 1-33.

9. For all the foregoing reasons, the Hearing Office recommends that:

- a) Candidate's Motion to Strike and Dismiss Verified Objector's Petition and to Bar Evidence be granted;
- b) Candidate's name of Natashia L. Holmes as a candidate for election to office of Alderman in the 7th Ward of the City of Chicago shall appear on the official ballot of the Municipal Election to be held on February 24, 2015.

  
John R. Ashenden, Hearing Officer  
December 31, 2014