

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

Objections of: Jay Ramiriez)
)
)
To the Nomination) No.: 16-EB-WC-01
Papers of: Maria Teresa Gonzalez)
)
Candidate for the office of Democratic Party)
Ward Committeeman for the 1st Ward, City of)
Chicago)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago Commissioners Marisel A. Hernandez, William J. Kresse and Jonathan T. Swain, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairman of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections (“Objections”) of Jay Ramiriez (“Objector”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of Maria Teresa Gonzalez, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeman for the 1st Ward of the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) at the General Primary Election to be held on March 15, 2016, having convened on December 14, 2015, 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 14, 2015 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer June Brown 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, Jay Ramiriez, by his attorney, Michael J. Kasper; and the Candidate, Maria Teresa Gonzalez, by her attorney, Thomas A. Jaconetty.

7. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found:

A. The Candidate filed a motion to strike and dismiss the Objector's Petition alleging, among other grounds, that the Objector's Petition is legally insufficient in that it fails to allege enough objections that, even if sustained, would bring the number of valid signatures on the Candidate's Nomination Papers below the minimum statutory signature requirement.

B. There were 1,002 objections in the Objector's Petition that, if sustained, would leave the Candidate with 568 valid signatures, which is 77 more than the statutory minimum signature requirement of 491.

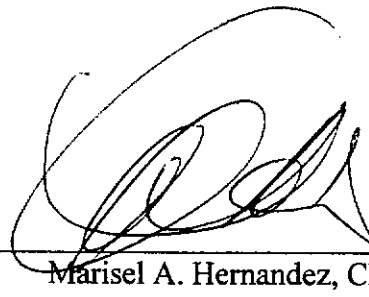
C. Therefore, the Objector's Petition is legally insufficient and the Candidate's motion to strike the Petition should be granted.

8. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Officer's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and conclusions of law.

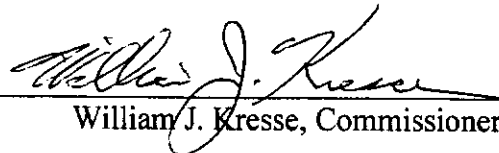
9. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Objector's Petition should be, and the same is, dismissed and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Jay Ramirez to the Nomination Papers of Maria Teresa Gonzalez, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeman for the 1st Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby DISMISSED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of Maria Teresa Gonzalez, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeman for the 1st Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 15, 2016.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 5, 2016.



Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairman



William J. Kresse, Commissioner

Jonathan T. Swain, 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.