

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

Objections of: MELVIN DELK, LARRY G.)	
NELSON)	
)	
To the Nomination)	No.: 07-EB-ALD-088
Papers of: RONNIE MCKENZIE)	(rel. ALD-185)
)	
Candidate for the office of)	
Alderman of the Twenty-fourth 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 and Richard A. Cowen, 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 MELVIN DELK and LARRY G. NELSON (“Objector(s)”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of RONNIE MCKENZIE, candidate for the office of Alderman of the Twenty-fourth Ward in the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 27, 2007, having convened on January 2, 2007, at 10:00 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(s) 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 January 2, 2007 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner Lynne Ostfeld for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector(s) and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board to appear before the Hearing Examiner on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector(s), MELVIN DELK and LARRY G. NELSON, *pro se*. The Candidate, RONNIE MCKENZIE, did not appear at the start of the initial hearing. However, he did appear before the hearing concluded and refused to waive service.

7. The hearing was continued to January 8, 2007. The Candidate and the Objectors appeared. Service of process had been made on the Candidate. The hearing proceeded.

8. The Hearing Examiner ordered that an examination of the registration records be conducted by its clerks and agents under the Board's direction and supervision, in accordance with the laws of Illinois and the rules of the Board.

9. The Hearing Examiner directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

10. The Candidate and/or his duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

11. The Objector(s) and/or their duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

12. The examination of the registration records was completed and the Electoral Board hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the results of the records examination conducted by its clerks and agents. The written report of the result of the registration records examination is contained in the Electoral Board's file in this case and a copy has been provided to the parties.

13. The Electoral Board has considered all evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Examiner's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law.

14. The results of the records examination indicate that:

A. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 172;

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 201;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 112;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 89.

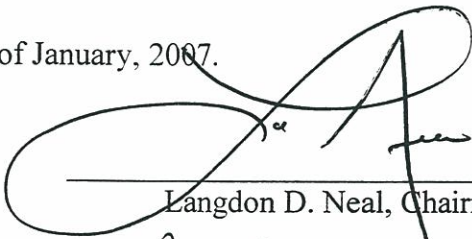
15. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination is less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Twenty-fourth Ward of the City of Chicago.

16. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board sustains the Objections and finds that the Nomination Papers of RONNIE MCKENZIE are not valid.


17. The Electoral Board further finds that another objection was filed against the Candidate's Nomination Papers in case 07-EB-ALD-185 and that the objections in that case were sustained and the Electoral Board also found in that case that the Candidate's Nomination Papers were invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of MELVIN DELK and LARRY G. NELSON to the Nomination Papers of RONNIE MCKENZIE, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Twenty-fourth Ward of the City of Chicago are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of RONNIE MCKENZIE, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Twenty-fourth Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 27, 2007.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 23rd day of January, 2007.



Langdon D. Neal, Chairman



Richard A. Cowen, 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 10 days after the decision of the Electoral Board.

Objections of:)	
MELVIN DELK, LARRY G. NELSON)	
)	
To the Nomination)	
Papers of: RONNIE McKENZIE)	No. 07-EB-ALD-088
)	
Candidate for the Office of)	Lynne R. Ostfeld
Alderman of the 24th Ward)	Hearing Examiner
in the City of Chicago)	

RECOMMENDED DECISION

This matter having come before the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners ("CBOE") on objections of Melvin Delk and Larry G. Nelson ("objector") to the nomination papers of Ronnie McKenzie ("candidate"), and the matter being assigned to a hearing examiner, Lynne R. Ostfeld, Esq., she finds and recommends as follows:

1. The hearing was begun on January 2, 2007, and continued from time to time. In attendance at the first hearing was the objector, Melvin Delk and Larry G. Nelson. The candidate, Ronnie McKenzie was not in attendance and the court file indicated that he had not been served. He did appear before the end of another hearing on objections to his candidacy, having learned about the hearing from looking at the CBOE web site. However, he refused to waive service of process. He was informed of the continuation of the hearing to January 8, 2007 and was told that the hearing would go forward whether a second attempt to serve summons on him was successful or not.

2. At the continued hearing on January 8, 2007, present were the candidate, Ronnie McKenzie, *pro se*, and the objector, Melvin Delk and Larry G. Nelson, by telephone.

3. Service of process was made on the candidate. The CBOE had jurisdiction of this matter.

4. The objectors had requested that the name of Ronnie McKenzie not be printed on the ballot for election to the office of Alderman of the 24th Ward, City of Chicago, based on the following objections: some signatures were forged at the request of the circulator; some signatures were not genuine; some signers were not properly registered at the addresses shown; some addresses were not in the 24th Ward; some addresses were missing or incomplete; some sheets were circulated by many people and by the candidate; some sheets demonstrated a pattern of fraud; the candidate's Statement of Candidacy did not give the proper office that he is seeking; the petitions contain less than the 172 signatures required.

5. A records examination was ordered.

6. The CBOE completed an examination of the records on January 12, 2007, and notified the candidate and the objector of the results on January 13, 2007. The continued hearing to receive the results was held on January 17, 2007. Neither the candidate nor the objector appeared at this hearing.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

7. Upon reviewing the results of the record examination conducted by the CBOE, the Hearing Examiner found the following:

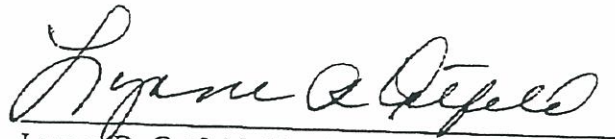
Number of signatures on all sheets	201
Number of objections overruled	35
Number of objections sustained	112
Number of valid signatures	89
Minimum signature requirement	172

8. The hearing examiner found that the candidate had insufficient valid signatures to meet the requirements for his name to be placed on the ballot for the Aldermanic Election to be held on February 27, 2007.

9. The Hearing Examiner recommends that this Board find that the Nomination Papers of RONNIE McKENZIE be declared to be NOT VALID for the reasons stated above.

10. The Hearing Examiner recommends that this Board order that the name of RONNIE McKENZIE NOT be printed on the ballot for the Aldermanic Election to be held on February 27, 2007 for the reasons stated above.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 21st day of January, 2007.


 Lynne R. Ostfeld, Hearing Examiner