

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

Objections of: Larry G. Nelson)
)
)
To the Nomination) No.: 12-EB-WC-28
Papers of: Ronnie C. McKenzie)
)
Candidate for the office of Republican Party)
Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward, City)
of Chicago)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners for 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 Larry G. Nelson (“Objector”) to the nomination papers (“Nominating Papers”) of Ronnie C. McKenzie, candidate for the office of Republican Party Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward of the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) at the General Primary Election to be held on March 20, 2012, having convened on December 19, 2011, at 8:30 AM, 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 19, 2011 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer William Kresse 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, Larry G. Nelson, pro se; and the Candidate, Ronnie C. McKenzie, pro se.

7. At the December 19, 2011 hearing, the Candidate indicated he wished to file a motion to strike and dismiss the Objector's Petition. A briefing schedule was set and the hearing was continued to December 23, 2011.

8. At the December 23, 2011 hearing, the Objector was present, but the Candidate did not appear, either personally or through counsel. The hearing was continued to December 29.

9. The Objector was present at the December 29 hearing; however, once again the Candidate did not appear.

10. The Objector's Verified Objector's Petition alleges that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid for the following reasons:

A. The Candidate filed 52 numbered petition sheets containing a total of 12 purportedly valid signatures of qualified voters of the 24th Ward of the City of Chicago.

B. Certain signatures as identified in the Appendix-Recapitulation attached to the Objector's Petition are invalid because, among other reasons, (1) the persons signing the petition were not registered to vote at the address shown on the petition, (2) persons signing the petition resided outside the 24th Ward, (3) signatures were not made in their own proper person and are not genuine.

C. Because of the deficiencies of such identified signatures, none of the 12 signatures on the Candidate's nominating petition are valid.

D. The Candidate's nominating petition sheets do not contain 6 valid signatures as required by law for candidates for the office of Republican Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward of the City of Chicago.

E. The Candidate's Statement of Candidacy failed to identify whether the Candidate was a candidate for "Election" or for "Nomination to the office of the Republican Party Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward.

F. The Candidate's petition sheets incorrectly identify the election scheduled for March 20, 2012 as the "Municipal Primary Election."

G. The Candidate's nominating petition sheets fail to contain any statement that the people signing the petition are qualified primary electors of the Republican Party.

11. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. The Hearing Officer has recommended a finding that the Objections be sustained and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers be declared invalid.

12. Rule 4(b) of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure provide that attendance at all meetings, hearings and proceedings is mandatory.

13. Rule 11 of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure provide that the failure of a party to appear at any hearing before a hearing officer without good cause shown shall be sufficient grounds to default such party provided that the party was served with notice of the hearing. The Rule further provides that in the case of a defaulted candidate, the nomination papers may be declared invalid, provided, however, that the Electoral Board may, in its sole discretion, require a preliminary showing that the objections, if taken as true, are sufficient to invalidate the nomination papers.

14. Here, the Candidate failed, after proper notice, to appear at two hearings before the Hearing Officer to defend his Nomination Papers against the Objections lodged thereto.

15. The Electoral Board finds that the Verified Objector's Petition states sufficient objections, which, taken as true, would reduce the number of valid signatures on the Candidate's nominating petitions below the minimum number of valid signatures of qualified voters of the 24th Ward as required by law.

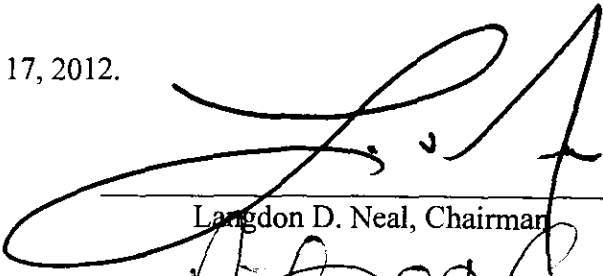
16. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate is in default for failing to appear at two successive hearings before the Hearing Officer after proper notice of the same.

17. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Officer's report, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's recommendation that the Objections be sustained and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers be declared invalid.


18. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Larry G. Nelson to the Nomination Papers of Ronnie C. McKenzie, candidate for the office of Republican Party Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Ronnie C. McKenzie, candidate for the office of Republican Party Ward Committeeman for the 24th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 20, 2012.

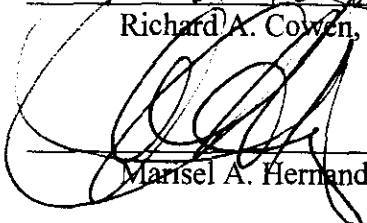
Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 17, 2012.



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.