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

Objections of: Charles Levy)
To the Nomination Papers of: Vincent Romano) No.: 14-EB-RGA-19)
Candidate for the nomination of the Republican Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 16th Representative District, State of Illinois))))

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 Charles Levy ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Vincent Romano, candidate for the nomination of the Republican Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 16th Representative District of the State of Illinois ("Candidate") at the General Primary Election to be held on March 18, 2014, having convened on December 16, 2013, 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, 2013 and was continued from time to time.
- 5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Mario Correa 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, Charles Levy, by his attorney, Michael J. Kasper. The Candidate, Vincent Romano, failed to appear. At the time of the hearing, there was no record that the Candidate had received service of the Call and the Objector's Petition. The hearing was continued until December 23, 2013 and the Hearing Officer ordered that a second attempt at service be made. A second attempt at service upon the Candidate was made, both by Sheriff and by certified mail. U.S. Postal Service records show that the certified mail delivery was signed for on December 18, 2013. At the continued hearing on December 23, 2013, the Candidate again failed to appear.
- 7. The Objections filed in this matter allege that the Candidate's nominating petitions fail to contain at least 500 valid signatures of legal voters in the district, as required by law.

- 8. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found the Candidate's nominating petitions contained, on their face, only 33 signatures of voters, far less than the 500 valid signatures of legal voters required by law. The Hearing Officer found, therefore, that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.
- 9. 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.
- 10. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Objections filed in this matter should be sustained and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Charles Levy to the Nomination Papers of Vincent Romano, candidate for the nomination of the Republican Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 16th Representative District of the State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Vincent Romano, candidate for the nomination of the Republican Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 16th Representative District of the State of Illinois, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 18, 2014.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 6, 2014.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

Marisel A. Hermandez, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 LCS 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.