

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

Objections of: KARISHA CARRIEL,)	
MELVIN GUNN and RONISHA DOBINE)	
)	
To the Nomination)	No.: 19-EB-MUN-021
Papers of: LA SHAWN K. FORD)	
)	
Candidate for the office of Mayor for the)	
City of Chicago)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the 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, Chair of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections (“Objections”) of KARISHA CARRIEL, MELVIN GUNN and RONISHA DOBINE (“Objectors”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of LA SHAWN K. FORD, candidate for the office of Mayor for the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) at the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, having convened on Monday, December 10, 2018, at 8:30 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 were duly and timely filed.
2. The Electoral Board was legally constituted under the laws of the State of Illinois.
3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chair of the Electoral Board and served upon the members of the Electoral Board, the Objectors 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 Monday, December 10, 2018 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Mary Celeste Meehan for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objectors 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 Objectors, KARISHA CARRIEL, MELVIN GUNN and RONISHA DOBINE, and/or their Attorneys ANDREW FINKO and FRANK AVILA; the Candidate, LA SHAWN K. FORD, and/or his Attorney SCOTT B. ERDMAN.

7. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board her report and recommended decision. The Hearing Officer recommends that the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers be overruled and that the Nomination Papers be declared valid. The Hearing Officer found the Objectors' Petition was not filed or pled in good faith and that it was not based on knowledge, information and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry. In support of that recommendation, the Hearing Officer's report includes a detailed factual analysis of the contents of the Objectors' Petition. In response to the Hearing Officers report and recommendation, the Objectors filed a Rule 20 Motion seeking to present additional evidence, testimony and argument before the Board. The Objectors' motion was filed seven minutes after the Rule 20 filing deadline, but the Board finds that to be in substantial compliance with the Rule and allowed the hearing to commence.

8. Initially, the Objectors allege that the Hearing Officer exceeded her discretionary authority by inquiring into the facts of the Objectors' Petition beyond the scope of the

Candidate's motion to dismiss based on the alleged bad-faith pleading. The Electoral Board disagrees. The Board's duly adopted Rules of Procedure provide its hearing officers with all "the duties and powers of the Electoral Board provided in these Rules, except that a hearing officer shall not have the power to make final findings or issue a final decision." Rule 2(a). This Hearing Officer has not made any final findings, nor has she issued a final decision. Rather, she submitted a final report with recommended factual findings and a recommended decision. That was fully within her authority.

9. Furthermore, Rule 1(b)(xvi) states that the "Electoral Board may, on its own motion or upon motion of a party, require the objector to make a preliminary showing that certain of the factual allegations in the objector's petition are pled in good faith based on knowledge, information and/or belief formed after a reasonable inquiry and strike any objection or any portion of an objection if it determines that the objection does not meet the requirements set forth in 10 ILCS 5/10-8 or is not well grounded in fact and/or law." Since this rule authorizes the Electoral Board to make such an inquiry "on its own motion," the Hearing Officer was authorized under Rule 2(a) to perform this inquiry on her own motion on behalf of the Board. It therefore was not an abuse of discretion for the Hearing Officer to expand that inquiry beyond the issues raised in the Candidate's Motion to Dismiss.

10. Although the Hearing Officer was fully and expressly authorized by Board rules to perform this inquiry, the Board finds that Rule 1(b)(xvi) requires that the Objectors be allowed "to make a preliminary showing that certain of the factual allegations in the objector's petition are pled in good faith." The Board finds that it is reasonable for those Objectors to be given an opportunity to testify in defense of their pleadings. The Board therefore allowed for such

testimony to be offered during the Rule 20 hearing. Therefore, the Board's ruling herein includes some evidence and testimony that was not previously heard by the Hearing Officer.

11. The Hearing Officer's report describes in detail numerous aspects of the Objectors' Petition that she believed are evidence of bad-faith pleadings. These facts include, but are not limited to, that the Objectors' Petition appendix recapitulation, which includes the individual line-by-line objections, contained at least 330 photocopied sheets "containing exact nuances in the markings of checks and x's which exactly lined up in columns A and B." The Hearing Officer identified no less than five different groupings of appendix recap sheets that readily appear to be photocopies of each other.

12. The Hearing Officer found credible the Candidate's factual assertions that there are some 1,259 appendix sheets that lodged objections against every signature on the corresponding Candidate petition page, and there are 60 appendix sheets that contain objections against more signatures than appear on the corresponding Candidate petition page. Some of the appendix sheets contain arrows drawn all the way down a column to objection to every corresponding signature, whereas customary practice and logic require these objections be made individually during a review on a signature-by-signature basis.

13. The Hearing Officer found that the Candidate alleged – and the Objectors' did not deny – that they objected to the Candidate's own signature and address on the line where he signed his own nominating petition. The Board finds that if the Objectors did, in good faith, believe that the Candidate was not registered to vote at the address shown on his petitions and Statement of Candidacy form, then it was bad faith for the Objectors to have not lodged an objection against the validity of the Statement of Candidacy form itself. If it were truly believed that the Statement of Candidacy contained a false swearing by the Candidate as to his residency

and eligibility to seek the office of Mayor, then they should not have wasted the Board's resources and the Candidate's campaign resources by requiring a full records examination of every petition signature to reach a finding that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are legally flawed and invalid due to a false swearing on the Statement of Candidacy form.

14. The Hearing Officer also found several objection appendix sheets where every one of the signatures is objected to as not having included a full and complete address. However, a review of the corresponding Candidate petition sheets shows addresses that are, indeed, full and complete. Those are bad-faith objections on their face. The Objectors responded that there could be missing apartment numbers, floors or unit numbers, but that is not a good-faith defense. The applicable statute in the Election Code expressly states the elements of a petition signer's address that must be shown on the petition, and apartment numbers, unit designations and floor numbers are not required: "The residence address required to be written or printed opposite each qualified primary elector's name shall include the street address or rural route number of the signer, as the case may be, as well as the signer's county, and city, village or town, and state." 10 ILCS 5/10-4. Thus, there is no basis in fact or law to object to a petition signer's address merely because it is allegedly missing an apartment or unit number, a floor designation, or any other information other than what is expressly required by the Election Code.

15. The Hearing Officer's report also addressed a 10% random-sampling records exam that we performed in this case. The Hearing Officer found that of the 6,834 objections ruled on, only 3,469 of those objections (50.7%) were sustained. However, the Hearing Officer indicated that she did not find the results of the random-sample records exam to be as significant as the evidence of bad faith that she found on the face of the Objector's Petition to be pervasive throughout the entire pleading.

16. In response to the Hearing Officer's report and recommended decision, the Objectors filed a Rule 20 Motion in which they relied heavily on the results of the random-sample exam, in addition to arguing (incorrectly) that the Hearing Officer exceeded her authority by inquiring into some of these matters on her own initiative. The Objectors argued, and the Board agrees, that the random-sample exam addressed 6,834 individual objections, but those objections only pertained to a total of 3,368 petition signature lines. Of those signature lines, 2,265 of them (67.2% of those reviewed) were found to be legally invalid for at least one reason. Thus, setting aside the Objector's incorrect assertion that the Hearing Officer exceeded her discretionary authority, their only substantive defense to the Hearing Officer's report is that their objections invalidated 67.2% of the signatures reviewed, even though only 50.7% of the total objections were sustained. The Rule 20 motion provided no insight or argument as to how or why it could be good faith to use photocopied appendix sheets instead of sheets that were completed on a line-by-line basis during the line-by-line analysis of the Candidate's petition that is required in order to lodge good-faith objections.

17. During the hearing on Objectors' Rule 20 motion, the Board permitted the Objectors to testify in defense of their Objector's Petition. The Board finds that the Objectors' testimony, combined with a 67.2% sustained rate on a line-by-line basis, and an overall 50.7% sustained rate, is evidence that could be used to support the finding of good-faith objections in cases where the objector's petition otherwise appears on its face to have been prepared and filed in good faith. However, in this case, with objection appendix sheets that were photocopied full of, or mostly full of, objections rather than having been completed on a signature-by-signature basis, with objections to addresses that appear on their face to be full and complete in compliance with the Election Code, with an objection to the Candidate's own signature and

address but no other objections related thereto, and with the other anomalies described in the Hearing Officer's report, the Board does not find the Objectors' defense to be adequate evidence of good faith in the case at hand.

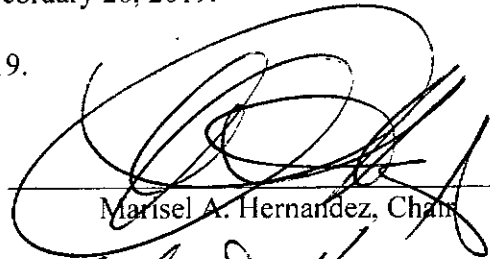
18. The Electoral Board, having reviewed the record of proceedings in this matter, including additional evidence and testimony offered during the Rule 20 hearing, and having considered the report and recommendations of the Hearing Officer, as well as all argument and evidence submitted by the parties, 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.

19. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board overrules the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers and finds that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are valid.

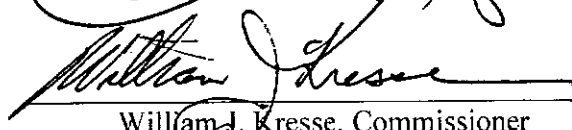
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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of KARISHA CARRIEL, MELVIN GUNN and RONISHA DOBINE to the Nomination Papers of LA SHAWN K. FORD, candidate for the office of Mayor for the City of Chicago, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of LA SHAWN K. FORD, candidate for the office of Mayor for the City of Chicago, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

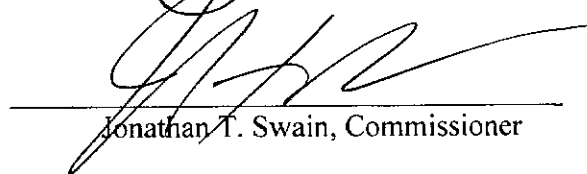
Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 12, 2019.



Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair



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.

BEFORE THE CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS SITTING AS
THE DULY CONSTITUTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE CITY
OF CHICAGO

KARISHA CARRIEL,)	
MELVIN DUNNE, AND)	
RONISHA DOBINE)	
Objector)	19-EB-MUN-021
v.)	
LA SHAWN K. FORD,)	Hearing Officer Meehan
Candidate)	

RECOMMENDED DECISION OF HEARING OFFICER

BACKGROUND

This matter came to be heard on December 10, 2018 before Hearing Officer Mary Celeste Meehan. The Candidate filed a Motion for a Preliminary Showing pursuant to Rule 1 (xvi) and a Motion to Strike pursuant to Rule 5. The Candidate incorporated his Motion to Dismiss into his Motion for a Preliminary Showing (both are herein referred to as the "Candidate's Motion"). The Objector filed a Response. The parties presented argument on the Motion on December 14, 2018 and the parties agreed a random sampling records examination may assist in determining some of the issues. A 10% random records sample was requested. The results were served December 22, 2018. The matter was taken under further advisement. The matter reconvened December 27, 2018 to review the results of the random sampling and for further hearing on the Candidate's Motion. The recommendation on the Candidate's Motion was put into the record and the Hearing Officer recommends the Petitioner's Objection be deemed a bad faith shot gunned objection. For purposes of this recommendation the case will be summarized and the issues in the Candidate's Motion will be addressed.

ISSUE

The issue presented for consideration and decided upon is whether there is sufficient evidence in the record to uphold the allegation in the Candidate's Motion that the Objector's Petition is a bad faith shot gun petition.

PARTIES AND PERSONS PRESENT

1. Attorney for Candidate, Scott Erdman;
2. Attorney for Objector, Andrew Finko;
3. Mr. LaShawn Ford, Candidate and potential witness;
4. Mr. Rickey Hendon, potential witness for the Objector;
5. Edna Straud, Court Reporter;
6. Mary Celeste Meehan, Hearing Officer.

EXHIBITS

The Board offered the following exhibits into evidence which the Hearing Officer admitted without objection:

Board Group Exhibit A-Nominating papers, including loyalty of oath, statement of candidacy, statement of economic interest and receipt, petition sheets and all other attachments.

Board Group Exhibit B-Objector's Petition and appendix recapitulation sheets consisting of 2749 pages.

Board Group Exhibit C-Proof of Service, The Call, any return service.

Board Group Exhibit D-Appearances

The Objector offered the following exhibit into evidence which was admitted over objection:

Objector's Exhibit 1- 2015 records examination results of LaShawn Ford in a city of Chicago election.

The following exhibits were not offered as evidence were referenced in and attached to the Candidate's Motion:

Candidate's Exhibit A-Circulator Spreadsheet (columns include: sheet#, number of signatures on sheet, number of signatures objected to on said sheet, circulator allegation or note) and corresponding Objector's Recapitulation Sheets.

Candidate's Exhibit B- Percentile Objected to Spreadsheet (with columns for: Petition Sheet #, Number of signatures on page, Number of lines objected to, Percentile Objected to. The Appellant offered no exhibits).

Candidate's Exhibit C- Signers Address Missing or Incomplete (recapitulation pages and corresponding nominating petition sheets).

Candidate's Exhibit D- Signer Signed more than once (appears to be a copy of Candidate's Exhibit E)

Candidate's Exhibit E- S.S. or Same Signer (recapitulation pages which allege S.S. or Same Signer in "other" column and corresponding nomination petition sheets).

Candidate's Exhibit F- Recapitulation sheets where Objector objected to more signatures than on nomination sheets.

Candidate's Exhibit G- Six pages of photocopied recapitulation sheets.

PETITION SUMMARY REPORT

RESULTS OF RANDOM SAMPLING RECORDS EXAM

On December 14, 2019 the parties agreed and a 10% random sampling (every 5th page) was requested. The summary report for random sampling was completed on December 22, 2018 and contains the following information: Candidate requires 12,500 signatures. Candidate submitted a total of 2,740 pages with a total of 40,119 signatures. There was a total of 64,882 objections. A total of 6,834 objections were ruled upon. Of the total ruled upon, 3,469 were sustained and 3,365 were overruled.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Cook County Officers Electoral Board, the State Board of Elections, and the Board of

Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago appoint hearing officers to hold hearings in cases.

The exact role of a hearing officer may vary from board to board but in general the hearing officer

rules on motions, takes testimony and other evidence, oversees the registration records check, and

makes recommendations as to the findings of fact and rulings of law. The hearing officer's findings

are reviewable by the parent body, which will make the final rulings in each case. The use of

hearing officers by the State Board was upheld by the court in *Keats v. Illinois state Board of*

Elections, No. 90 MR 33 (Sangamon City.Cir. 1990). The Hearing Officer makes the following

findings of fact:

1. On November 26, 2018 the Nominating Papers of LaShawn K. Ford, for the Office of Mayor of the City of Chicago was duly filed with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago.
2. The Nominating Papers included 2,749 petition sheets and 40,119 signatures.
3. On November 28, 2018 the Objector's Petition was complete and notarized.
4. On November 28, 2019 each Objector signed and had notarized a Verification which states in part: "the nominating papers were reviewed and compared against the voter registration records kept by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, and the objections alleged in the Objector's Petition are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief...".
5. Upon partial review of Objector's Exhibit B Objector's Petition, the recapitulation sheets contained at least THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY (330) photocopied sheets containing exact nuances in the markings of checks and x's which exactly lined up in column's A and B. Some of the photocopied sheets contain variations such as an added or deleted X or check mark.
6. Objector's recapitulation sheets named in Candidate's Exhibit G pages 204, 281, 282, 292, 2422, and 2424 are all photocopied sheets of each other.

7. Objector's recapitulation sheets 2,271 through 2,399 are all photocopied sheets of each other.
8. Objector's recapitulation sheets 2,499 through 2,599 are all photocopied sheets of each other.
9. Objector's recapitulation sheets 2,601 through 2,664 are all photocopied sheets of each other.
10. Objector's recapitulation sheets 2,666 through 2,700 are all photocopied sheets of each other.
11. Many recapitulation sheets are exact photocopied sheets.
12. Many recapitulation sheets are exact photocopied sheets and contain purposeful deletions and changes. Pages 2407 and 2408 are examples of this and contain changes in the document beginning at line 11.

ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATE'S MOTION

According to the Electoral Board Rule 1(xvi), under which the Candidate's Motion is filed, the Electoral Board may on its own motion or upon motion of a party, require the objector to make a preliminary showing that certain of the factual allegations in the objector's petition are pled in good faith based on knowledge, information and or belief formed after reasonable inquiry and strike any objection or any portion of an objection if it determines that the objection does not meet the requirements set forth in 10 ILCS 5/10-8 or is not well grounded in fact and/or law. Objections to individual signers and/or circulators must consist of a specific objection or objections to that particular signer or circulator.

At the initial status on December 10, 2018 the Candidate stated he will be filing a motion for preliminary showing due to a shotgun objection. At that time, the Objector stated the shotgun objection was already addressed through the verification; that the verification of the Objector says

they partook in the process of reviewing the signatures at the Board of Election. The Objector demanded a records exam and strongly opposed reviewing the appendix recapitulation sheets. The matter was set for hearing on the Candidate's Motion.

The Candidate filed a timely Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Preliminary Showing. The Motion for a Preliminary Showing incorporates the Motion to Strike therein and is herein referred to as the "Candidate's Motion". The Objector filed a timely Response. At the hearing on the Candidate's Motion on December 14, 2018, the Candidate relied on his Exhibits A-G which are referred to and attached to his Motion. The Candidate argued there are a total of 1,771 pages with a 98% objection rate. Of these pages there are 1,259 where every single signature is objected to, 60 pages with more signature objections than actual signatures, 243 pages where all but one is objected to, and 209 pages where all but two were objected to. See Candidate's Exhibit B. The Board has overruled Objections where the objector objected to every signature. See *Arafat v. Shaw*, 91-EB-ALD-91, *Reed v. Kusper*, 15 Ill. 2d 77, 607 N.E.2d 1198 (1992). Here, the Candidate argued, the entire recapitulation maintains an 82% objection rate and the 1,771 pages maintains a 98% objection rate. There were also many pages with more objections than actual signatures (60 pages identified by the Candidate in Exhibit B). Some of these pages had a line drawn the entire column instead of an x or a check, which further adds to the Candidate's position. The Candidate noted, the Candidate's own signature was objected to but did not point out where the Candidate signed his petition and where the objection was in the recapitulation.

The Objector responded this was the Candidate "disagreeing" with the ultimate facts and this is factual evidence that should not be reviewed at this time. A review of the recapitulation sheets in Board's Group Exhibit B, relating to the 60 pages with over 100% objection rates was made. The Objector objected to over 100% of the signatures in those sheets. This evidence was given weight towards a shot gun petition.

The Candidate's Motion describes problematic recapitulation sheets. The three-sheet sample

in Candidate's Exhibit C is recap sheets where the Objector is objecting to every signature for missing or incomplete address (45 consecutive signatures). Upon review of these sheets in Board's Group Exhibit B, every address objected to appears complete and present. Objecting to each one as missing or incomplete appears to be bad faith and this argument is given weight. The Objector did argue there could be missing unit, floor, or apartment numbers not included. This was considered very unlikely given the number of signatures in the three-sheet sample and the fact they are consecutive signatures.

The Candidate's Motion also describes sheets and signatures alleging "signer signed petition more than once at Sheet/Line indicated" where the Objector failed to indicate where the signer signed more than once. However, the Candidate failed to allege where the lines and pages for those specific objections were. Therefore, this issue was not considered.

Further, Candidate's Exhibit E presents 8 recap pages where the Objector drew a line through the entire column "Other" and wrote same signer or S.S. A review of these pages in Board Group Exhibits A and B, do not give any indicia of being written in the same hand. The objections to same signer or SS was given weight towards a bad faith shot gun objection. Three of the 15 pages noted by the Candidate in Candidate's Exhibit E had lines drawn straight down through the entire column past the number of signatures on that page. In response the Objector stated the recap sheets listed in Candidate's Exhibit E with a line drawn down were scrivener's errors. The scrivener's error argument of drawing a line straight down the page was considered as possibly plausible due to the massive number of pages (2,749) the Objectors were facing within such a short period of time and the fact only 3 pages were noted by the Candidate.

Candidate's Exhibit F correctly points out sheets in the Objector's Petition that object to more signatures than on the nomination sheets some of which were later crossed out. The Objector stated they were "human error" which was bound to happen in light of the sheer size of the petition. Although suspicious, the Objector's argument of "human error" was fairly reasonable for various

reasons. In light of the sheer volume of the petition, only 9 of these pages were pointed out by the Candidate, and the pages were not all consecutive pages. When asked if he was offering anything in support of his arguments, the Objector stated that he would only be offering a 2015 Records Exam Report of the Candidate from another race, see Objector's Exhibit 1. This showed results of a 2015 records exam from another Chicago election race. Objector's Exhibit 1 was allowed over the Candidate's objection but given little consideration.

Throughout the hearing on the Candidate's Motion, the Objector contended this was improper and demanded a Rule 6 exam and possible Rule 8 hearing. A records exam was not ordered at this point as a shot gun objection was being considered. A random 10% sampling was ordered to assist with the high objection rate and the matter was set for a hearing on December 27, 2019.

In regards to the photocopied pages the Candidate's Motion states "upon a detailed review other copies would be revealed". Before the hearing on the 27th, Board Group Exhibits A and B were reviewed again by the Hearing Officer in partial detail. Hundreds of photocopied sheets throughout the Objection were identified. The findings of fact above lists particular sheet groups which are photocopied. The checks or x's are identical and in the exact spot on each sheet. Some have variation added in or removed on some of the sheets. The page numbers are changed. A vast majority if not all, of the objections are in columns A and B. After looking through Board Group Exhibits A and B, the photocopy issue was obvious and rampant and became the main factor in considering a bad faith shot gun objection.

At the hearing on the 27th, the issue was narrowed to whether it was a shot gun petition based on the photocopied sheets. The other issues raised in the Candidate's Motion became almost mute but for giving weight to a finding of bad faith and shot gun. When the rampant photocopy issue was discussed, the Objector did not deny it and asked for another hearing date to bring in the teams who created the sheets to explain why they were photocopied. This was denied. The

Objector continued to maintain the examination or the recapitulation sheets by the Hearing Officer at this time was improper and an evidentiary hearing was proper.

The Board's Exhibits A and B were entered into evidence without objection on December 10th. Rule 1(b)(xvi) states that the Electoral Board may *on its own motion* require the objector to make a preliminary showing that factual allegations in the objector's petition are pled in good faith after a reasonable inquiry. Rule 2(a) provides hearing officers with "the duties and powers of the Electoral Board ... except that a hearing officer shall not have the power to make final findings or issue a final decision." Thus, the Hearing Officer under this Rule 2(a) has the power to require the objector to make a preliminary showing in the above Rule 1(b)(xvi). Even if the Candidate had not filed any motion to dismiss based on bad-faith pleadings, the Hearing Officer has the authority to inquire into such matters on behalf of the Board. Thus, it is within the hearing officer's scope of authority to review materials in evidence and limit the introduction of evidence and witnesses.

During the December 27th hearing, the Objector requested the testimony of Ricky Hendon. This was denied because according to the Objector's Response, he over saw the Objection but he did not prepare any of the sheets. The testimony of Mr. Holiday was also denied as he could offer no testimony regarding the photocopied sheets. The Objector argued Mr. Holiday's testimony was needed to further explain the random sampling results. However, the random results were no longer an issue in light of the photocopies. A review of the evidence in Board's Exhibits A and B on their own is enough to find the Objector's Petition to be a bad-faith shot gunned petition. The Objector's verifications state in part that the candidate's nominating papers were reviewed and compared against the voter registration records. If that were the case, there is no explanation for hundreds of photocopied pages with slight variations throughout. Bad faith preparation is the only explanation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, when all of the allegations against the Objector's Petition are

considered together with the findings of fact, the Objector's Petition does not meet the requirements set forth in 10 ILCS 5/10-8, is not well grounded in fact and law, and is not pled in good faith.

Therefore, the **Candidate's Motion should be granted and Objector's Petition should be dismissed as a bad faith "shot-gunned" petition.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary C. Meehan".

January 08, 2019

Mary C. Meehan, Hearing Officer