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**BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO
AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD
FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS
TO NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE FEBRUARY 23, 1999 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION
FOR MAYOR, CLERK, TREASURER AND ALDERMAN
IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

Objections of: BEVERLY J. CATHERINE and FLORENCE V. STREETER	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR.	)	No.: 99-EB-ALD-105
Candidate for the office of Alderman of the 20th 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, Richard A. Cowen, and Theresa M. Petrone, 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 BEVERLY J. CATHERINE and FLORENCE V. STREETER to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR., candidate for the offices of Alderman of the 20th Ward in the City of Chicago ("Candidate"), having convened on December 28, 1998, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 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 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 December 28, 1998 and was continued from time to time.

5. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the members of the Electoral Board, the Objector(s), BEVERLY J. CATHERINE and FLORENCE V. STREETER; by counsel, and the Candidate, SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR, pro se.

6. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner RICHARD GIRARD for further hearings and proceedings.

7. The Electoral Board 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.

8. The Electoral Board directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

9. Neither the Candidate nor a duly authorized representative attended the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objectors or their duly authorized representatives were present during the examination of the registration records.

11. 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 is available for inspection upon request of a party.

12. The Electoral Board has considered all evidence and arguments tendered by the parties.

13. The Electoral Board finds that:

    a. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 150;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 1337;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 1131;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 206;

14. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following the records examination is above 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 20th Ward of the City of

Chicago.

15. However, the Board further finds that 1,131, or 84.5%, of the objections to individual signatures on the Candidate's nominating petition were sustained and the signatures found to be invalid. The vast majority of these sustained objections were grounded in the fact that the signer of the petition was not registered at the address shown on the line next to the petitioner's signature or that the petitioner's signature was not genuine.

16. The Electoral Board finds that it is readily apparent, even to the eyes of a non-expert in the field of handwriting analysis, that a substantial number of signatures on the Candidate's nominating petition sheets exhibit characteristics of common authorship. Examples of this occurrence are most readily found on sheets 8, 11, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, and 35 of the petition, where 63% of all signatures were found not to be genuine.

17. The Electoral Board finds that all 55 sheets of the Candidate's nominating petition were signed by the Candidate himself, Shadrach Goodloe, Jr., as the circulator of these sheets. The Candidate admitted that the handwriting for many of the signatures on the petition sheets appear similar, but he denied fraud, and denied that there were lists used which resulted in names being grouped alphabetically. The Candidate argued that names reappeared in the same sheet because people in families with the same name tended to live where they had relations.

18. Section 10-4 of the Election Code requires in part that at the bottom of each petition sheet shall be added a statement signed by a registered voter certifying (a) that the signatures on that sheet of the petition were signed in his presence, (b) that the signatures are genuine, and (c) that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the persons so signing were at the time of signing the petition duly registered voters of the political subdivision or district for which the candidate shall be nominated. Such statement shall be sworn to before some authorized to administer oaths in this State.

19. The statutory requirement of Section 10-4 that circulators of petition sign statement before officer authorized to administer oath to effect that they circulated petitions and that signatures were signed in their presence and were genuine is substantial and valid requirement that relates to the integrity of the political process and the failure to comply with such requirement constitutes a valid objection. *Williams v. Butler*, 35 Ill.App.3d 532, 341 N.E.2d 394 (Fourth Dist. 1976).

20. The Electoral Board finds that the extremely high number of petition signatures invalidated because the signature was found not be genuine suggest that in a great many instances someone other than the person whose name is listed as a signer of the petition actually signed the petition and these signatures are likely the result of forgery. In any case, either these signatures were not affixed in the presence of the Candidate/circulator, contrary to his certification under oath that they were signed in this presence, or they were affixed in his presence and he knew them to be not genuine, which is also contrary to his certification under oath that the signatures were genuine. In either event, the

Candidate/circulator's affidavit under oath constitutes a false swearing and an intentional disregard for and violation of Section 10-4 of the Election Code.

21. The Electoral Board finds that where the evidence discloses a pattern of fraud, false swearing, and a total disregard for the mandatory requirements of the Election Code, it is proper to invalidate the entire sheet. *Fortas v. Dixon,* 122 Ill.App.3d 697, 462 N.E.2d 615 (First Dist. 1984). The Electoral Board further finds that when the sheets of a nominating petition submitted by a purported circulator evidence a pattern of fraud, false swearing and total disregard for the mandatory requirements of the Election Code, all sheets purportedly circulated by that individual should be stricken in their entirety. *Canter v. Cook County Officers Electoral Board*, 170 Ill.App.3d 364, 523 N.E.2d 1299 (First Dist. 1988).

22. Therefore, the Electoral Board finds that all 55 sheets purportedly circulated by the Candidate should be, and the same are, stricken in their entirety because of the demonstrated pattern of fraud, false swearing and total disregard for the mandatory requirements of the Election Code. As a result of striking all 55 sheets, the Candidate has no valid signatures on his Nomination Papers and the Nomination Papers are void.

23. The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that the Objectors' Petition is sustained and that the Nomination Papers of SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR. are not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of BEVERLY J. CATHERINE and FLORENCE V. STREETER to the Nomination Papers of SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR., candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 20th Ward of the City of Chicago are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of SHADRACH GOODLOE, JR., candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 20th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer and Alderman to be held on February 23, 1999.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this Second day of February, 1999.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

Theresa M. Petrone, 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.