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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: WALTER D. WILSON, JR.	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	
Papers of: EDITH BROWN	)	No.: 99-EB-ALD-156
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 29th 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 WALTER D. WILSON, JR. to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of EDITH BROWN, candidate for the offices of Alderman of the 29th 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 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 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, WALTER D. WILSON, JR., by counsel; and the Candidate, EDITH BROWN, pro se.

6. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner KELLYE KEYES 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. The Candidate or her duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objector or his duly authorized representative was 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 159;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 227;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 100;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 127;

14. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following the records examination and a master file examination is below 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

29th Ward of the City of Chicago.

15. Following the records examination and the master file examination, the Candidate filed written objections to the results of the records examination and master file examination pursuant to Rule 8 of the Electoral Board's rules of procedure. However, the Candidate perfected only 12 written objections. She had failed to object to the rulings made by the Board's clerks as to other signatures that had been found invalid at the time of the clerk's findings, thereby waiving any right to appeal those findings.

16 At a hearing on January 30, 1999, the Candidate presented 36 affidavits in support of the signatures found invalid during the records examination or the master file examination. Because most the affidavits related to signatures that the Candidate had failed to properly preserved her objections, or because they were not relevant to the allegations raised by the Objector's Petition, all but 12 of the affidavits were not considered. The Objector objected to 3 of the 12 affidavits, but stipulated to 9 of the 12 affidavits. As a result, the Candidate has 136 valid signatures on her Nomination Papers, 23 short of the required minimum of 159.

17 The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that the Objector's Petition is sustained in part and overruled in part as more fully indicated in the results of the records examination.

18 For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of EDITH BROWN are not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that the Objections of WALTER D. WILSON, JR. to the Nomination Papers of EDITH BROWN, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 29th Ward of the City of Chicago are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of EDITH BROWN, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 29th 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.