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

Objections of: JAMES WALTER REED, JR.	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	
Papers of: GRADY A. HUMPHREY	)	No.: 03-EB-ALD-104
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the Forty-ninth 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, Theresa M. Petrone, and Richard A. Cowen, 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 JAMES WALTER REED, JR. ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of GRADY A. HUMPHREY, candidate for the office of Alderman of the Forty-ninth Ward in the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 25, 2003 having convened on December 30, 2002, at 10:00 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 30, 2002 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner LYNNE R. OSTFELD 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 Examiner on the date and at the time designated in the

Trial Call. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector, JAMES WALTER REED, JR., by counsel; and the Candidate, GRADY A. HUMPHREY, pro se. The Candidate later retained legal counsel

7. The Hearing Examiner 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 Hearing Examiner directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

9. The Candidate or his 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 and the Hearing Examiner's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law.

13. The results of the records examination indicate that:

    a. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 240;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 420;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 165;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 255.

14. The Objector subsequently presented evidence that (a) certain of the individuals who signed the Candidate's petition sheets were not, at the time of signing the petitions, duly registered voters in the Forty-ninth Ward; (b) certain addresses of signers of the Candidate's nominating petitions were incomplete or missing; and (c) certain signatures were not genuine.

15. On the basis of the evidence presented, the Hearing Examiner sustained the Objector's Objections to an additional 21 signatures, leaving the Candidate with only 234 valid signatures on his Nomination Papers. At a hearing before the Electoral Board, the Candidate gained another two signatures, leaving him with only 236 valid signatures.

16. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination and the evidentiary hearing in this matter 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 Forty-ninth Ward of the City of Chicago.

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 and on the record of the evidentiary hearing.

18. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of GRADY A. HUMPHREY are not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of JAMES WALTER REED, JR. to the Nomination Papers of GRADY A. HUMPHREY, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Forty-ninth Ward of the City of Chicago are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of GRADY A. HUMPHREY, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Forty-ninth Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 25, 2003.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this Tenth day of February, 2003.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Theresa M. Petrone, Commissioner

Richard A. Cowen, 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.